



Kids saddle up for fun

Vacation Bible School uses Wild West as program's theme.

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Fort Riley Post



Softball teams finish third week of play

HHC, 24th Inf. Div. remains powerhouse.

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Friday, June 11, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Around The Army

Army-wide:

The European edition of Stars and Stripes reported June 9, that the Pentagon is ironing out criteria and design of two new campaign medals authorized by Congress to honor servicemembers who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

The new medals are different from the Global War on Terrorism medals that President Bush signed into law in March 2003.

Before recessing in May, the House and Senate authorized the two new medals. President Bush signed the legislation into law May 28.

Now it's up to the Defense Department to design the medals and their ribbons and establish eligibility criteria. That could take up to a year, according to Pentagon spokesman Jim Turner.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in Europe and the Pacific, visit estripes.com on the Internet.

Fort Belvoir:

The Eagle reported June 3, that the annual Twilight Tattoo ceremony was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. June 11, at the Fremont Soccer field next to U.S. Route 1.

The Twilight Tattoo ceremony includes a narrated history and representation of the history of the Army. Performing along with the re-enactors will be the 3rd U.S. Infantry, known as The Old Guard and the U.S. Army Band, known as Pershing's Own.

For more about this story and other Fort Belvoir news, visit www.belvoir.eagle.com on the Internet.

Fort Polk:

The Guardian reported online June 4, that the post would soon see a "change of guard." The access control points will be adding contracted guards and Department of the Army police to assist military police.

Chenega Technical Products, a subsidiary of Chenega Corporation and Vance Uniformed Protective Services, have signed a contract with the government to interview, select and train contracted guards.

Chenega/Vance will also run the day-to-day operation of the guards.

For more about this story and other Fort Polk news, visit www.jrc-polk.army.mil on the Internet.

Fort Eustis:

The Wheel reported recently that Sgt. 1st Class John Kerr, assistant chief engineer on board the U.S. Army Vessel Bristoe Station, 97th Transportation Company, was awarded the Soldiers Medal for risking his own life to save the lives of others.

On Sept. 9, 2002, Kerr saw a vehicle with two people in it crash into a guardrail and go over the Reservoir Bridge.

The vehicle plunged into 19 feet of water. With no regard to his own safety, Kerr dove in with another man and rescued the female passenger. Kerr dived back in the water to rescue the male passenger.

For more about this story and other Fort Eustis news, visit www.militarynews.com or wheel.ontheinternet.com.

Fort Riley to honor Reagan

Former president rides to 'Fiddler's Green'

By Patricia Spurrier Bright
U.S. Cavalry Association
& Research Library

Fort Riley will honor the passing of former President Ronald W. Reagan with a memorial service at the Main Post Chapel at noon June 11. Reagan was the 40th president of the nation.

As part of the national day of mourning on June 11, nonessential Soldiers and Department of Army civilians will be given a day of leave.

Employees should check with

their supervisors before taking the day off. Additionally, a 21-gun artillery salute will be fired from Cavalry Parade Field at noon June 11.

During retreat at 5 p.m. June 11, a 50-gun salute will be fired from Cavalry Parade Field.

The American flag will be flown at half-staff for 30 days, in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 3044.

Theodore Roosevelt.

It is said in the cavalry that when a cavalry trooper leaves this world and makes his journey to his final destination, along the way he encounters a broad meadow dotted with trees and crossed by many streams. The meadow is known as "Fiddler's Green."

Located in the meadow is an old Army canteen and near it are camped all dead cavalymen with their tents erected. Horses are tethered to picket lines and campfires burn brightly. The souls of the dead troopers gather around

See Reagan, Page 4

New outfits



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, try on the new and improved helmet during equipment issue May 25.

19th PAD/Shepherd



Sgt. Dwane McMillin tries on the new tactical gloves during equipment issue May 25.

19th PAD/Shepherd

Soldiers bound for Iraq don updated equipment

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Moisture-wicking T-shirts, silk-weight underwear and black fleece bibs may sound like something people would see while shopping at the local lingerie store.

Grappling hooks, door rams and tomahawks sound like items from a medieval war movie.

Add the M249 Forward Rail System, the TA31F-4X Advanced Combat Optical Gun Sight and the Modular Integrated Communications Helmet System and now it sounds like a scene from the movie, "Starship Troopers."

The common denominator is that it's all modern Army equipment and it was issued late in May to 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment Soldiers as a part of the Rapid Fielding Initiative.

The new equipment enhances a Soldier's skills on the battlefield, according to Sgt. Maj. Martinez Alexander, sergeant major to the Program Executive Office.

"The Rapid Fielding Initiative is a program that was directed by (Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army chief of staff) to enhance a Soldier's lethality, mobility and survivability on the battlefield," Alexander said.

"The initial program began in late 2002 as a reflection of Operation Enduring Freedom. The chief of staff of the Army wants to ensure that all Soldiers who are deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom receive these vital enhancement equipment items."

Approximately 650 1st Bn., 41st Inf., Soldiers went through various stations May 24 and 25 to pick up the new equipment before their scheduled deployment to

See Equipment, Page 3

Project brings villages water

1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, aids Marines

By Paula M. Fitzgerald
1st Marine Division

CAMP AR RAMADI, Iraq — The 4,500 residents of Teabon and Qutnyah villages have never had their own potable water source.

Soldiers with Army's 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, working in support of 1st Marine Division, stepped in a few months ago to fix that problem.

During Saddam Hussein's reign, Teabon's Mahal Tribe and Qutnyah's Assaf Tribe were neglected and denied clean water.

"The previous regime didn't see fit to give these people water," said Army Lt. Col. Thomas S. Hollis, the battalion's commander. "The sheiks asked for assistance but to no avail."

The sheik of Teabon, had been an outspoken critic of Hussein and his regime.

Once the Coalition ousted Hussein's notorious Ba'ath Party, the leaders of the two villages sought help.

"We began this series of water projects about five months ago," Hollis explained. "We knew we needed to get it done."

Until now, the villagers hauled buckets of cooking, bathing and drinking water from the Euphrates River and irrigation canals.

Both sources are highly polluted, causing many birth defects among the younger villagers. "Not having fresh water makes the people very susceptible to disease," Hollis explained.

Bidding for the projects ended early this year and construction on new water purification and distribution sites began almost immediately.

"Of the \$7 million we have to

See Water, Page 2

Club inducts three members

Selection indicates leadership excellence

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Three Fort Riley Soldiers stood with heads held high in front of their peers until the commanding general stepped in front of them and the division command sergeant major stepped behind them.

It was time for them to bow their heads and accept the symbol

of leadership excellence being bestowed upon them June 3, as new members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley and 24th Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela draped the ribbon bearing the club's distinctive medallion over the heads of Sgt. 1st Class Jason

Skinner of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor; Staff Sgt. Reyes DeLeon-Lugo of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion; and Sgt. Rowan Lechue of U.S. Army Medical Department Activity at Fort Riley.

One of Skinner's subordinates said the sergeant's dedication to his job and his subordinates is

See Inductees, Page 2



Post/Heronemus

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Skinner, Staff Sgt. Reyes DeLeon-Lugo, Sgt. Rowan Lechue and Mrs. Reyes DeLeon-Lugo are congratulated by (from left) Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney, assistant division commander for maneuver, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech); retired Lt. Gen. Richard Seitz of Junction City and 24th Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela.





Post news in brief

Organization day moved

The Directorate of Logistics will hold its annual Organization Day with picnic and activities for employees and family members on June 18. It had previously been scheduled for June 11, which President George W. Bush declared a national day of mourning. The directorate will be closed from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., so employees can participate in the day's activities. For emergencies, call the Fort Riley Operations Center at 239-2222.

IACH command to change

The U.S. Army Medical Department Activity change of command at Irwin Army Community Hospital is scheduled for 9 a.m. June 24, on Cavalry Parade Field.

Col. Marilyn H. Brooks will assume command of MED-DAC from Col. Julie M. Martin.

Scheduled clinic appointments will be reduced the afternoon of June 23 and the morning of June 24.

The pharmacy will have reduced staff and waiting times may increase. Beneficiaries are asked to preplan and, if possible, receive their medication at other times.

Emergency care will be available.

Center plans June job fair

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will host a job fair from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 28, in building 319.

CPAC staff will collect resumes for temporary positions to be filled for up to one year.

Positions to be filled begin before Aug. 1.

Positions available include personnelists, NBC-chemical, materials handlers, ammunition delivery drivers, physical/personnel security, administrative management and administrative assistants.

Veterans should bring a DD form 214 (member 4 copy) and a resume to the job fair.

Students enrolled in summer or fall college classes should bring proof of enrollment, latest transcripts and a resume to the Job Fair.

All other applicants should bring a resume that includes their name, address, phone number, e-mail address (if applicable), hours per week worked and work experience listed in chronological order.

Prior employees and veterans with a secret or higher security clearance should annotate that information on their resumes.

Post to observe Army's birthday

Fort Riley will celebrate the Army's 229th birthday during a ceremony at 9 a.m. June 14, on Ware Parade Field.

Post to auction abandoned vehicles

Abandoned vehicles found on Fort Riley go on the auction block from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 12, at building 1671 in the Camp Funston area.

The auction is open to everyone. The public can view the vehicles until 3 p.m. June 11.

Payment for purchased vehicles must be made with cash, certified checks or money orders.

Call 239-6398.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2.2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Inductees

continued from page 1

incomparable.

Deleon's leadership and training skills imparted confidence in all of his subordinates, one of them said.

Leechue completed every mission assigned by his superiors, regardless of the challenge or its complexity, and it was accomplished with the utmost professionalism, said one of the sergeant's Soldiers.

"It takes a lot of work to achieve a goal like this. It is that dedication and quest for excellence that sets each of you apart from your peers," Canuela said after the medallions were presented.

Canuela also belongs to the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

"Besides all the hard work and preparation involved, it takes strength of character, heart and ability and the willingness to lead from the front," Canuela said of the new inductees.

As far back as the Revolutionary War, standards were set for the selection of noncommissioned officers, Canuela told the audience gathered for the induction ceremony.

"The choice of noncommissioned officers is critical to the success of the unit. The order and discipline of the regiment depends so much on their behavior that too much care cannot be taken in conferring" them with such trust, he said, reciting part of the standards established during the times of Gen. George Washington's Army and the American Revolution.

"Through your actions you have truly epitomized what the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is designed for," Canuela said, complimenting the new inductees.

"It stands for the total vision concept. You take care of your Soldiers, ... you develop them, you lead them, you train them and years from now, when you look back on your military careers, this time will be one of your most cherished memories," he said.

"It's just a great honor to be part of such a unique club. It was one of the goals I had in my career. I didn't really expect it, but I'm glad I had the chance to achieve it," Skinner said after the ceremony.

Deleon viewed his induction as more reason to epitomize the standards Sgt. Audie Murphy demonstrated in World War II.

"We need to be a role model for the Soldiers because we have the knowledge and the care to help them out. We want to help them out in the future. I've got the knowledge now, now I've got to care for my Soldiers and make sure they have the knowledge

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

Select members of the U.S. Army noncommissioned officer corps who are inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club epitomize the leadership demonstrated by Audie Murphy during World War II.

Murphy served with the famous 15th Infantry in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He spent some 400 days on the front lines and earned 33 military awards, citations and decorations, including every medal the Army presents for valorous actions.

Murphy's courage and leadership ability also earned him a battlefield commission.

He later became a movie star and producer and acted in 44 films, including "To Hell and Back," which was adapted from the best selling book of his war experiences.

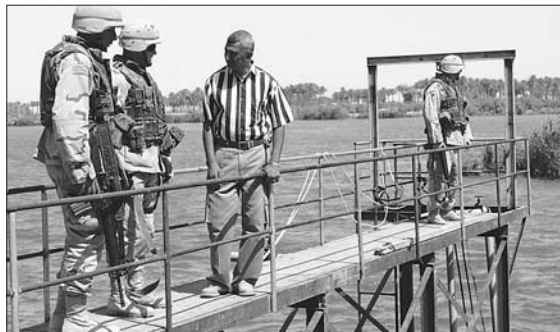
because they are going to have my job when I leave," he said.

Participating in the ceremony, Mrs. Deleon viewed her husband's induction as "the beginning of a lot of good stuff ... a good career for him."

She said she is well aware of the significance of being selected for the club. "I studied with him about the whole Audie Murphy story."

Leechue is not a combat arms Soldier by military occupational specialty, but "We're all combat Soldiers," he said. "I can be sent anywhere at anytime," and exemplary leadership isn't found only on the battlefield.

"This is a special honor for me because it was a challenge by my sergeant major. I accepted that challenge. It's a unique club that exemplifies excellence. I strive to be a part of the best," he said.



USMC/Loveless

Army Lt. Col. Thomas S. Hollis, commander of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, talks with a leader at Qutnyah, Iraq, about their fresh water facility. The battalion has been working closely with the village and Teabon to help provide potable drinking water sources.

Water

continued from page 1

spend on civil military operations in our area of operations, \$165,000 went to Teabon and \$145,000 went to Qutnyah," said

Army Capt. Jeffrey E. Flach, the battalion's civil affairs officer.

The two companies in charge of the projects were awarded the contracts based on their reputations and their "price tags," according to Flach.

"A lot of the companies bidding were asking for \$200,000 or

\$300,000," Flach added. "These two companies came in with very reasonable offers."

Since construction started, nearly five kilometers of pipe has been installed in Teabon and seven kilometers in Qutnyah.

Both water facilities — built from the ground up — are state-of-the-art and are similar to those found in the United States.

Flach visited both sites to check on the progress. "There's

not too much room for improvement at either site," he said.

"Now the focus is getting the water distributed to the homes."

That will take time, according to Hollis.

"This project is not something that will serve just for now. It'll serve in the future as well. As the area expands and more families migrate here and more buildings pop up, fresh water will be available," he said.

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Infantry Soldiers practice quick-fire response

By Jason Shepherd
19th PAD

Infantry Soldiers at Fort Riley honed short-range marksmanship on Range 5 May 27.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment Soldiers deploy for their second tour in Iraq in the near future.

The unit practiced reflexive fire fundamentals that improve their assault and survivability in close quarters.

This type of training prepares Soldier for room clearing and the close combat operations many will likely experience while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I think the reflexive fire went very well because this teaches you to be ready for anything from any side," said Spc. Jason Griffith, a breach team leader.

"You don't know where the enemy is going to fire from, so you have to be ready for anything," he said.

When conducting reflexive fire, Soldiers start at a 25-meter line in a low ready position facing

the targets. The Soldier is then told the engagement position (for example, facing left, turn right) and, once in position, is given the cue to fire.

The Soldier must, on cue, assume the proper firing position and stance, place the weapon's selector lever on semi-automatic, use the correct aiming technique for the target's distance and engage the target.

After engaging the target the Soldier will continue to cover the target to reinforce firing until the threat is eliminated.

"We do reflexive fire training often because almost everything we do is urban," said Staff Sgt. James Kirkpatrick, a dismount squad leader. "You have to be on your toes if you get shot at because it can come from anywhere."

This type of training comes naturally to many Soldiers of 1st Bn., 41st Inf., because they've used it numerous times in the past couple of years.

The unit has been to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., three times, Kuwait

once and Iraq once.

"I think that 1-41 gets sent on a lot of deployments because we're good at what we do," Griffith said. "Fort Riley doesn't get much publicity. You hear a lot about the 101st Airborne, 82nd Airborne

and the 10th Mountain Divisions. We're trying to spread the word about the 1st Bn., 41st Inf. Regt."

For most Soldiers, going back to Iraq is a chance to try some new things and learn some more about the Arabian culture.



19th PAD/Shepherd

Spc. Wallace Cudjoe fires at a target during reflexive fire training May 27. The point of the exercise is to teach Soldiers to spot a target and fire without having to aim through the weapon's sights.

"The first time I was there, I learned a lot about security," said Spc. Jason Dunderdale, a Bradley gunner.

"I'm going over there this time with a brand new outlook. I want to get to know the Iraqi people a little better and observe how they interact with themselves and us. I want to learn all over again," he said.

"When I went over there the first time, I was a rifleman," Griffith said. "But I got this new idea about a breach team. After the concept was approved, I was selected to lead one of the new teams. This is something new and I'm excited about trying it out over in Iraq."

Griffith said his new breach team is responsible for clearing rooms before the squad gets in. He said the new concept would ensure a specialized team with specialized equipment would be clearing rooms.

"We use a folding ladder, battering ram, sledge hammer, flex cuffs, sand bags and tags as a breach team," he said. "I'm real excited about going back and try-

ing out this new concept."

Another big training point for the 1st Bn., 41st Inf., Soldiers is improvised explosive devices that have been causing numerous casualties.

"When they left the first time, there were only a few IEDs out there," Kirkpatrick said. "Now you hear about IEDs every day. We've been training a lot on IEDs to make sure we'll respond correctly. We've been coming in every day at 5 a.m. to ensure we're ready to go."

"I don't expect anything different over in Iraq this time," Griffith added. "You have to keep your head on a swivel. Soldiers get hurt when they get complacent. You have to expect the unexpected."

Even though many of the Soldiers of the unit have been to Iraq before, they stand ready and trained to answer the call again.

"I think we're going back to Iraq because we accomplish the mission and we do it well," Dunderdale said. "I think the people up top know that when they want the job done right, they call on us."

Equipment

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Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Right now, we've filled approximately 68,000 Soldiers Army-wide," Alexander said. "We continually push to fill another 75,000. By the end of fiscal year 2007, we've been charged to fill the remainder of the forces, regardless of if they're active, reserve or National Guard."

The RFI consists of 49 items that provide the most up-to-date equipment in the categories of

force protection, mobility, lethality, Soldier mission-essential equipment and individual weapons and optics, according to a release by the Program Executive Office.

Some of the new equipment includes the Advanced Combat Helmet, knee and elbow pads, fiber optic viewer, modular entry tools, assault ladder with backpack, hydration system, individual combat shelter, infantry hot weather desert boot and goggles.

Most of the Soldiers are excit-

ed about the new equipment.

"Last time we went over to Iraq, we were using some pretty old equipment," said Spc. Jason Griffith, breach team leader with Company B. "It's really nice that the Army has gotten us this new equipment for our return trip to the desert. Before, we were sleeping in shelter halves, but now, we've got these new tents that will be a lot more comfortable over there."

"This equipment is a lot better because it's more comfortable,"

added Spc. Kenneth Horton, rifleman with Co. B. "I really like the new and improved helmet. It's a lot more comfortable than the old one."

Alexander said the Advanced Combat Helmet is half a pound lighter than the Ground Troop and Parachutist Helmet, and it provides fragmentation and ballistic protection.

The new helmet is cut higher all around the helmet to reduce interference with the Interceptor Body Armor and rucksack. It also

allows for greater mobility, especially in the low-crawl position, and allows for greater hearing ability.

Comfort is improved because of its lighter weight and padded suspension system, which makes the helmet more stable.

Soldiers in the 1st Bn., 41st Inf., also said they liked the improved hot weather desert boot.

Alexander said that most Soldiers think the new desert boot is so comfortable that it's like wear-

ing tennis shoes.

Staff Sgt. James Kirkpatrick, dismount squad leader with Co. B, said the boots really make a difference.

"These boots are really comfortable. Usually, there's a little break-in period, but these feel really good. I'm looking forward to trying them out in Iraq."

"If a Soldier feels that he has the modern, state-of-the-art equipment, he's going to perform better on the battlefield," Alexander said.

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6025th transfers reins of mobilization mission



Post/Heronemus

Col. John Simpson, garrison commander at Fort Riley, pins a "Minuteman" to the uniform of a 6025th Garrison Support Unit Soldier during a transfer of authority ceremony June 8, on Ware Parade Field. The 6025th transferred its mobilization mission to Soldiers of the 648th Area Support Group.

Lowery grateful for tasking

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

They have helped mobilize and demobilize some 8,000 Guard and Reserve troops. Now, after 17 months at Fort Riley, Col. Robert Lowery Jr. and approximately 225 members of the 6025th Garrison Support Group return home.

The St. Louis, Mo., unit is being replaced by the 648th Area Support Group, also from St. Louis.

Fort Riley was an ideal duty station, Lowery said. "It's been a dream assignment for me." It's also his last assignment. Lowery's mandatory retirement date from the Reserves is in mid-August.

"I couldn't have gone out any better than this. Our unit did a great job. We missed no missions. We supported Fort Riley in every area possible way from the 'G' staff to railroad to doing command and control mobilizing all the Guard and Reserves that came through here," he said.

Being a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom at the home front was a very rewarding experience, Lowery said.

"Watching all those Americans depart, watching the transition from Guardsmen and weekend Reservists to active duty, trained, motivated, ready to defend your country ... to have the privilege to talk to each and every one of them before they left the manifest site — it's a

Weaver to lead continued effort

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Col. Kimberly Weaver and the 648th Area Support Group officially replaced Col. Bob Lowery and the 6025th Garrison Support Unit during a transfer of authority ceremony June 8, on Ware Parade Field. The 6025th is a subordinate unit of the 648th ASG. Both are based in St. Louis, Mo.

Weaver and her troops arrived in mid-May to take over some of the duties the 6025th GSU had been performing. Significantly smaller than the 6025th, the 648th's role is slightly different, Weaver said. The 6025th has 225 Soldiers while the 648th has only 38.

"We're not structured like a garrison support unit. We don't have the Soldiers or the force to support the directorates. Our primary mission at Fort Riley will be command and control or battle command, for the units mobilizing and demobilizing through Fort Riley," she said.

When Reserve and National Guard Soldiers first arrive at Fort Riley, they are assigned to the 648th ASG. The unit is responsible for everything from feeding and billeting to supplying and preparing the Soldiers for deployments.

"To be successful at our mission, we have to be able to mobilize units, have them meet their latest arrival dates. But more importantly, they have to be validated. They have to be prepared to perform their mission before they leave here," Weaver said.

The 648th's task is not new; it's just on a larger scale, Weaver said. "Our peacetime mission is command and control battle command. This does fit into what we normally do, although things will be much faster than what we normally do on a drill weekend," she said.



Col. Kimberly Weaver



Col. Robert Lowery Jr.

Fort Riley.

"The command here at Fort Riley supported us unhesitatingly. We were partners from day one. There was never a two-Army concept. (It was) one Army, one fight from the time we got here," he said.

This experience has changed the lives of Lowery and his Soldiers.

"I know that (I) and my entire unit have been very affected by this, and we will never be the same because of it. We'll be better Americans because of it, and we will be better able to go out in the civilian world and tell the story of today's American heroes that are over there every day guarding our front door. And that is irreplaceable," he said.

Though Lowery said he is glad to be returning home, he said he has some mixed emotions about leaving. "There's always a tug at the heart because of the friends we've made. We're going to miss Fort Riley."



Post/Blackmon

Tank dedicated to Soldiers' service

Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley and Lt. Col. Jeff Ingram, G3, (left) help dedicate an M-1 tank at the Multi-purpose Range Complex June 2. The tank was dedicated to the Soldiers of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Pat Hopkins, supervisor of MPRC and the staff at MPRC acquired the tank and built the memorial. Hopkins said they wanted to create the monument to show their appreciation for the Soldiers' service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reagan continued from page 1

the fires to tell stories and reminisce.

Deceased members of other service branches must continue to march through Fiddler's Green without pause. Cavalrymen, though, are authorized to dismount, unsaddle and stay forever at Fiddler's Green, their cantons ever full, and too enjoy the companionship and reminiscences of old friends.

Former President Reagan rode to Fiddler's Green on June 5, 2004. All cavalrymen join in wishing him a safe trip to Fiddler's Green and may meet old cavalry troopers to share his reminiscences. May the cavalrymen therein have their horses saddled and bridled, ready to ride again as their standards are lifted to the breeze.

Former President Reagan enlisted in the horse cavalry on April 29, 1934, and first served with the 322nd Reserve Cavalry Regiment. He was discharged on June 17, 1937, to accept a commission as a second lieutenant of cavalry and was assigned to the 66th Cavalry Division.

In June 1940, he moved to Los

Angeles, Calif., where he was transferred to the 325th Cavalry Regiment. As a captain of cavalry, he was ordered to active duty at Fort Mason, Calif., in 1942.

Former President Reagan was an avid horseman who received most of his horsemanship training with the cavalry. He continued to ride most of his life.

He rode and trained with the 14th Cavalry stationed at Fort Des

Moines, Iowa.

He became the honorary chairman of the U.S. Horse Cavalry Association in 1983, a position he held with pride. He was highly honored to have been a horse cavalryman and expressed a desire that the history and traditions of the horse cavalry be preserved.

All horsemen grieve his passing and wish him Godspeed on his ride to Fiddler's Green.

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Re-up bonus deadline nears

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — An estimated 5,000 Soldiers who re-enlisted in the theater of operations last year may be eligible for a sizable bonus, but officials said only 341 have applied and the deadline for applying is June 30.

Bonuses up to \$5,000 will be retroactively paid to Soldiers between the ranks of specialist and staff sergeant with 17 months to 10 years in service and who re-enlisted between March 18, 2003, and Sept. 18, 2003, while assigned or attached to units deployed in Afghanistan, Kuwait or Iraq.

As of late May, Human Resources Command had received only 341 Soldier elections to take advantage of this retroactive bonus. Soldiers who believe they may be eligible should contact their career counselor for eligibility determination and assistance in obtaining the bonus, HRC officials said.

FORT RILEY POST

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Commentary

Friday, June 11, 2004

Fort Riley Post

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Legal hints

Right measures ease claims process

By Brian W. Underdahl
Chief, Claims Division

Moving is not always fun, but at least it does not have to be a traumatic event. The key is to be organized and plan ahead. Before making your next move, you can take steps to protect your interests.

These steps can also help expedite the claim process should it become necessary.

First, take pictures of all belongings before a move. A Polaroid or video camera will provide instant pictures.

If you have neither, take the pictures and wait to develop them until they are needed. This way you won't waste money developing unnecessary pictures.

Always keep manuals, purchase receipts and documentation of ownership and value.

The bottom line for claimants is that the better the documentation of ownership, value and damage (before and after condition), the better likelihood of the maximum allowable recovery.

Finally, remember never to pack your documents (pictures, receipts, videos, etc.) with your household goods.

Second, movers do not always listen to instructions and will

often pack items claimants have asked them not to pack. Do not assume they will follow directions.

If you have items that you do not want the movers to pack, set them apart from the items you want them to pack. Place the segregated items in a separate room and lock the door. This will dissuade the movers from entering and packing those items.

Third, Soldiers should be present when the movers arrive to pick up and deliver their household goods.

If Soldiers cannot be present, a friend, neighbor or family member should be present. It takes at least two people to check off the inventory, place furniture and check for damage. If you are single, have a friend help you.

If you have children, arrange for them to be with a friend or babysitter when the movers arrive. There's nothing worse than chasing a 2-year-old while two or three movers are going through your belongings.

Fourth, when your household goods are picked up for shipment, a representative from the moving company will fill out a Household Goods Descriptive Inventory.

The inventory lists every item that has been shipped and the

condition of the item at the time of shipment.

It is important for the Soldier to be sure that the inventory accurately describes everything that has been packed.

It can be quite frustrating when your shipment arrives and the box in which your crystal vase was packed with your bed linens is missing and there is nothing on the inventory sheet to say that the crystal vase was packed by the movers because the inventory reflects only the box of bed linens.

Your property must be listed on the inventory for any claim for loss or damage to be payable.

Fifth, it also is very important that Soldiers note disagreements with the mover's comments regarding the condition of the items found at the bottom of the inventory form in the "Remarks" section. These comments will be coded in letters and numbers on the same line as the item described. The key for this code is at the top of the inventory form.

You also should save the inventory. At the time of delivery, you must check what has been received against this inventory and record all damaged or missing property on the DD Form 1840 (a.k.a. "the pink sheet").

This form is provided by the moving company and will be signed by you and the moving company's agent.

Often, you discover damage after the time of delivery. If you do, you should note the later discovered damage on the back of the DD Form 1840, which is marked as DD Form 1840R.

Sometimes movers are moving more than one family at a time and may be in a rush to leave your home.

You are ultimately responsible for your belongings, so don't be afraid to question the movers. However, there is no reason to get upset or hostile. If you are experiencing trouble with the movers, call the Transportation Office (239-3020) while the movers are there.

Sixth, if there is any damage to your household goods, you have 70 days from the date of delivery to submit the DD Form 1840/1840R to the claims office.

Once you have turned in the DD Form 1840/1840R, you will be briefed on what you need to do in order to submit your claim.

You have two years from the date of delivery of your household goods to submit your claim.

For more information, call the Fort Riley claims office at 239-3830.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



Use Army One Source to help you get fit, stay fit

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'Demon Rum'

Soldier: Ditch drinking problems, reclaim your self-control

By Kim Dooley
Assistant editor
Fort Benning, Ga., Bayonet

I like to drink. I like going to the bar with my friends, kicking back, having a good time.

I like to catch a little "buzz" now and then. I like the atmosphere, the people.

It's harmless fun, and (most of the time), I stay in control. I know when it's time to quit.

But drinking can be a bit like a game of Russian roulette. Not just for me, but for so many people.

There's that invisible line, the one you don't think about as your bar tab grows and the table fills with empty bottles and glasses. The line where one more drink means the difference between

making it home safely in a cab or being the person escorted from the bar, unconscious, by security personnel with vomit stains on their clothes.

Fortunately, I haven't visited that rock bottom (at least not in public), but it wasn't that long ago that I was close. It wasn't long ago that I tiptoed that line, dangerously close to going off the deep end with my drinking habits.

Am I an alcoholic? No, I wouldn't say so. Did my life suffer really traumatic, permanent damage? No, I didn't climb behind the wheel or black out in public venues or get arrested — nothing that dramatic. My drunken deeds aren't going to rival or even compare to those you would hear in an AA meeting. In fact, the only person they really hurt

that badly was me.

But that's my point. When we lose control, we've gone too far.

When we start drinking to get obliterated, when we regularly call our friends the next day to piece together the events of the previous night, when we wake up with no recollection of getting home, when we forfeit control of our faculties and sensibilities, we've gone too far.

I'm a lucky girl, if you ask me.

Not long ago, anything could have happened to me and there wouldn't have been much I could do about it, because I wasn't in control of my binge drinking or myself.

I was a sitting duck for ill-intentioned guys, mean-spirited girls, anyone who wanted to take advantage of me. And I was

blessed that no one ever did. But I see it all the time now. Now that I can stop once I've started.

I see people passed out in the bathroom, head on a toilet seat countless people have used just that night.

I see people getting in fights, getting booted from bars. I see people who have been drinking for hours climb into their cars even after their friends have pleaded with them not to drive.

I see people staggering home with strangers — different strangers than they left with last weekend.

Some of them I know, some of them I don't. It doesn't really matter.

We all have to ask ourselves,

"Is it really worth it, when all it takes is a little bit of extra effort to avoid crossing the line, drinking slowly, pacing yourself, stopping when you know you need to?"

You still get to have fun. You still get to join in the party and have a good time with your friends.

What are we really giving up?

Are we having such a great time when we wake up with a ridiculously bad hangover that lasts all day only to go to do it all over again that night?

Are we having that much fun when we're strapped for cash a week before payday because we

spent our paycheck at the bar?

Is it really worth it when we're facing serious day-after consequences? Maybe a DUI or a wrecked car, maybe a sexually transmitted disease or an unwanted pregnancy. Maybe cuts and bruises. Maybe wounds that can't be healed.

Whatever the consequences, is it really worth it to cross that line?

Editor's note: This commentary is reprinted from the Fort Benning, Ga., Bayonet. If you have something you would like to express on this page, call 239-8854 and talk to the editor of the Post.

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Villagers from Unit No. 4 wave good-bye to U.S. service members who had flown in to give them blankets, toys, shoes and food.

82nd Med. Co./Orr



82nd Med. Co./Orr
Spc. Clayton Bennett, a Black Hawk helicopter crew chief, hands out candy and toys to Iraqi children.

Flight crew drops bundles of fun, aid

By Aaron J. Orr

82nd Med. Co. (AA)

An Army Black Hawk helicopter crew combined its efforts with that of the U.S. Air Force's Office of Special Investigations one recent Sunday to deliver toys, stuffed animals, clothing and food and water to villagers near Kirkuk Air Base in northern Iraq.

Soldiers from Fort Riley's 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) and OSI's Forward Operations Location 20 pooled resources to coordinate a toy drop in a nearby abandoned missile base that has since been turned into a village.

The scene was controlled chaos.

While USAF security forces personnel stood guard on the perimeter, children swarmed the

servicemen to receive clothing, toys, shoes, candy and bottled water.

"I am happy. Today I got a soccer ball," said a boy named Usaim, speaking through an interpreter.

The boy, who did not know his age, was dressed in old plastic sandals and a faded multi-colored windbreaker despite the 95-degree temperature.

One of the men said Usaim is 14 years old. "I wish next time you come back I can get some tennis shoes," Usaim said. "I want you to come back again."

Special Agent Ross Begnaud from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, said, "This is the most tangible way to make a difference in Iraq. Yesterday everybody [in the OSI office] was down on Iraq" because they had helped interview more than 30 prisoners, all crimi-

nals. "When you start to feel like this place is hopeless, you hand out this stuff and they see you're not so bad," he said.

FOL 20's Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Bonnie N. Adkins, from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, said, "It [the trip to visit this small Iraqi community] was good because all we see is the bad side of Iraq."

Living conditions in what its people call Unit No. 4 are poor at best. Few of the children have shoes on their feet, and the people live in old military bunkers and the remnants of crumbling buildings and mud huts they've built.

"It really saddens me because this country has so many resources. It has oil and minerals," said Spc. Daniel Kreth, a flight medic with 82nd Med. Co. "It could be a great nation. ...

These people need a lot more than better living conditions; they need basic medical care, schools, electricity."

"They think the water [we bring them] is blessed because it's clear," Begnaud explained. "They can see through it so they hold on to it."

Though some of the "villagers" wore traditional Arab garb, most of their clothing was a hodgepodge of Western hand-me-downs.

Lukmin, a thin, darkly tanned man with a deeply furrowed brow and a scraggly black beard, wore a T-shirt with "New York" emblazoned across the front. He told the interpreter the villagers "have a lot of love for America. We don't have a school or power but we hope you come back again to make us all happy. Thank you very much for stopping by," he

said.

FOL 20's Translator, Wurya "Woody" Shwani, a Kirkuk-born Kurd whose family was deported from the area by Saddam Hussein's regime in 1980, said, "I would like to help everybody, especially the poor. I feel sorry for the kids. They have no park, no kindergarten, no power."

"I hope one day they will have the same as American kids. So we have to teach the new generation about Democracy. Today we give them toys; the old regime gave them weapons and taught them how to kill," he said.

"I think [our visit] was kind of cool because these people don't have much," Kreth said. "They don't know much about Americans except we got rid of Saddam."

Begnaud and Chief Warrant Officer Travis Montgomery, a

maintenance test pilot with 82nd Med. Co., were instrumental in organizing and stocking the trip to Unit No. 4. They spent several weeks working out the details of travel, communications, the timeline and acquiring the goods that were distributed. Montgomery provided many of the toys with his own funds.

"[My wife] has probably sent me \$50 worth of stuff a month to give to people who actually have nothing," Montgomery said. "I wish we had more to give them. Now that I've been out there, I see more of what they need. They need school books, paper, crayons. It's not just them. There's people like this all over the country."

After leaving Unit No. 4, the aircrew flew north and dropped some toys at a couple of other small villages.

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19th PAD/Tamez
Staff Sgt. Joshua Wilson, battalion master gunner, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, makes sure a Soldier's mask is sealed before he enters the CS chamber.

Chamber creates confidence in 34th Armor Soldiers' gear

By James H. Tamez
19th PAD

The 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, capped a week of intensive nuclear, biological and chemical training on May 27, with a trip to the "gas chamber" in preparation for deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The annual training aims to make Soldiers comfortable in their Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear while operating in a combat environment.

"This is very important for the Soldiers," said 2nd Lt. Kevin Murnyack, battalion chemical Officer. "This training shows the Soldiers that their equipment works."

The training may have taken on a special meaning for some Soldiers aware that an improvised explosive device containing sarin was recently discovered in Iraq,

but the Army's training methods have not changed, Murnyack said. The discovery has only given Soldiers a greater sense of need regarding their equipment.

"That is in part why NBC training is mandatory," Murnyack said. "It provides confidence for the Soldiers. They will know what to do and how to react in the event that our enemies use it."

Soldiers involved in the training saw the training session as more than just yearly qualification; it prepared them for the situations that Soldiers face every day in Iraq.

"The training has been good," said Pfc. Jacob Braden, of Company B. "We are covering squad-based tactics, decontamination and NBC training."

"It has been more than just classroom training," said Pfc. Steven T. Graham. "We are training more like how it will be when

we deploy."

"I have more confidence in my equipment," Braden said. "This has been good and important training."

The centerpiece of the unit's NBC preparation was the visit to the gas chamber. The training offered Soldiers a chance to enter a chamber filled with O-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile, also known as CS or tear gas, and to learn to trust the equipment they have been issued.

After entering the chamber in full MOPP gear, Soldiers participated in some physical training and then broke the seals on their masks, exposing them to the CS gas in the room. After a brief

exposure, the Soldiers revealed their masks and moved out into the fresh air.

After experiencing CS, Soldiers were trained in operational decontamination and MOPP gear exchange.

"Going into the CS chamber is only one morning of the training," Murnyack said. "After the CS chamber, the Soldiers are training on gross decontamination."

All of the training 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, is doing takes on special significance because of the unit's impending deployment to Iraq. Deployment is slated for sometime in late fall, according to Maj. Jeffery Broadwater, battalion executive officer.

Leaders detail biodefense plan

By Doug Sample
AFPS

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials announced the government's new plan to counter a bioterrorism attack on the United States during an April 28 news conference in the nation's capital.

The announcement came as part of President Bush's directive to integrate anti-bioterrorism efforts across all government agencies.

"We've done a good job so far, but, you haven't seen anything yet," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson, after he gave reporters a tour of the department's new mobile command center.

On the health front, Thompson said his department now spends 12 times as much on bioterror preparedness as it did three years ago. "And when you look at our shared responsibility with DHS, the increase is even more," he

said.

Between 2001 and 2004, HHS funding went from \$305 million to \$3.9 billion, he said. "And we have requested \$4.1 billion for next year. On bioterrorism related research alone, we've gone from spending \$53 million in 2001 to \$1.6 billion in 2004. That's more than 30 times as much for bioterrorism research."

Thompson noted that HHS has almost 10 times as many staff members working on bioterrorism readiness as it did in 2001. The department has increased food-imports inspections from 12,000 in 2001 to 60,000 in 2004, and will do more than 100,000 in this fiscal year, he said.

The HHS secretary said his department dramatically improved its ability to respond to the threat of smallpox. In 2001, the department had only 15 million doses of smallpox vaccine available. Today, he said, there is

enough vaccine for every man, woman and child in America, if necessary.

The secretary also noted strides in anthrax vaccine research that he expects to be available by mid-2005.

Ridge reported several initiatives Homeland Security has implemented against a bioterrorism attack, a plan he also said begins with "better coordination within."

He said, under the president's new national biodefense directive, all bioterrorism projects and programs fall under a coordinated and focused strategic plan that will help "maximize resources, ensure a common unified effort across all federal agencies, and address any deficiency that we discover."

His department's plan for a robust "bioterrorism defense includes the creation of a biological attack warning system and an

improved distribution system for critical antibiotics and vaccines, Ridge said.

A biological agent detection program called BioWatch was tested in most major cities, he said. BioWatch can deploy environmental sensors in major urban areas to sample the air for biological agents. The department tested the system in Washington, D.C., in early April.

The president's budget this year contains \$118 million to support and expand the program, including the development of improved environmental monitors, Ridge said.

In addition, Homeland Security established a new National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center to study biological agents and to track down the source of any release that might occur, he said.

Vet's remains come home

Special to the Post

The remains of Air Force Col. Lester E. Holmes of Plainfield, Iowa, who was missing in action in the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial.

Holmes was flying a forward air control mission over Quang Binh Province, North Vietnam, May 22, 1967, when his O-1E "Bird Dog" aircraft was struck by enemy fire. Another forward air controller in the area saw Holmes' aircraft spiral toward the ground.

The recovered remains and other circumstantial evidence were identified by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, June 11, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Sports news in brief

Upcoming events:

June 12-13 — ASA State Qualifying Softball Tournament

June 14 — Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

June 17 — Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Center plans canoe trip

Registration is under way at the Outdoor Recreation Center for a June 19 canoe trip on the Big Blue River.

Canoeers will float the river from Rocky Ford to the U.S. Highway 24 bridge. The trip is expected to last from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$15, which includes transportation to and from the area, canoe, paddles and life jacket.

For more information, call Outdoor Rec at 239-2363 or stop by building 9011 on Rifle Range Road.

Lake Wilson:

Wilson WindJam — Windsurfing experts and beginners from all over the Midwest gather at Lake Wilson during two weekends; camping available; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 18-27. For more information, call (620) 792-2257 or visit www.wilson-windjam.com on the Internet.

Outdoor Rec changes hours

Effective now through Sept. 11, the Outdoor Recreation Center will be open as follows:

Saturday and Sunday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Thursday and Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday: Closed

Also closed July 5-6 and Sept. 4 for federal holidays.

Outdoor Rec offers new boat

Fort Riley's Outdoor Recreation Center in building 9011 on Rifle Range Road now rents a new 21-foot Sun Tracker pontoon boat to eligible users. Cost is \$125 per day or \$200 per weekend. A \$200 deposit is required to reserve the boat.

Maximum capacity is 13 people or 1,800 pounds. A Boat's Safety Test is required before renting the boat.

Lanes feature night bowling

Extreme bowling — bowling under strobe lights — is offered at discounts for families and individual soldiers using Custer Hill Lanes on post.

Families can bowl in the extreme conditions from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sundays for \$10 per family per lane. They can rent bowling shoes for \$1 a pair.

Soldiers can bowl under the extreme conditions from 10 p.m. Fridays to 1 a.m. Saturdays and from 10 p.m. Saturdays to 1 a.m. Sundays for \$11 per person.

Rally Point:

June 13 — WWE Bad Blood PPV, 7 p.m.



Darren Toups of 70th Engineer Battalion tries unsuccessfully to sprint past Paul Alfaro, catcher for the 125th Forward Support Battalion, during a June 3 slow-pitch softball game. The Engineers defeated 125th FSB 13-5. *Post/Heronemus*

One out, one safe



William Mabe eats dirt for the 70th Engineer Battalion's slow-pitch softball team June 3, as he slides in to third base face-first under the glove of 125th Forward Support Battalion Player Jason Ratliff. Watching the play is 125th FSB pitcher Daniel Malcano. *Post/Heronemus*

Battalions split games one night, then double up

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Split results dominated battalion level slow-pitch softball play June 1. The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, forfeited its first game against 125th Forward Support Battalion but slipped past the support Soldiers 7-5 in their second scheduled game that evening.

On field two at the softball complex, 24th Infantry Division and the 924th Military Police Battalion split their games. The Infantry won the first game 22-5, and the MPs returned the favor 22-

13 in the second game.

June 3 saw different outcomes on the battalion diamonds. The 70th Engineer Battalion won both its games against 125th FSB, 13-5 and 15-11. The 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, also won both its games, 12-1 and 16-4, against 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

Company games June 1

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., dropped both its company level games June 1. The first loss came 6-1 against 523rd Military Police Company. Company B, 2nd Bat-

talion, 70th Armor, handed them the second loss, 6-5.

Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, split its games June 1. They defeated 10th ASOS 8-7 then lost 23-5 against the 977th Military Police Company.

U.S. Army Medical Department Activity and Battery C, 4th Bn., 1st FA, defeated Battery A, 4th Bn., 1st FA, 14-7 and 15-9, respectively, in the last two games played on field three.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, was scheduled to play three games instead of the normal four games

it had faced each previous night of league play, but forfeited them to 568th Combat Support Equipment Company, A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, and 596th Signal Company.

The Signalmen lost their other game of the evening, 17-16, against Company B, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor.

Company games June 3

Co. C, 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, suffered four more forfeits on field four June 3 against opponents Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th Bn., 1st FA.

See Softball, Page 10

Biologists seek answer in eagles' nest

Climber removes infertile eggs; fort's birds unusual in extent of attention



Gibran Suleiman

By Gibran Suleiman

Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Conservation Division

The outcome of Fort Riley's first known eagle's nest was revealed May 25 to a small group of biologists and one brave tree climber named Joel Brinker.

When Brinker climbed to the nest 70 feet above the ground, he discovered the eagles had laid two eggs, but because they hadn't hatched this late

in the season, they were likely infertile.

This was the first real nesting attempt for the pair on Fort Riley and it is very common for first-year birds to be unsuccessful their first time. More than 50 percent of first-time nesters are unsuccessful.

Biologists got close enough to one of the Fort Riley eagles to see that it had been banded in Kansas. The bird

was a male that was banded at Clinton Lake in 1999. Its parents were the first pair to nest in Kansas in the past 100 years or so.

Baby eagles that are banded in Kansas receive two bands, one on each leg. One of the bands is all silver. The other one is purple and has an alphanumeric code engraved in silver. The purple band indicates that the bird was banded in Kansas and can actual-

ly be read using a spotting scope while the bird is perched in a tree. This allows biologists to gather information without having to disturb or capture the adult birds.

According to Dan Mulhern, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Manhattan, the first eagle banded in Kansas hatched at Clinton Lake in 1989. By banding baby eagles, the Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to gather more information

See Eagles, Page 10







Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, June 11, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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Community news briefly

BOSS cancels Saturday event

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers has canceled the Mr. & Ms. Fort Riley Bodybuilding Competition scheduled for June 12, in Barlow Theater because of lack of participation.

Harley riders coming to post

The Harley-Davidson Employee Rider Association of Kansas City will roll into Fort Riley June 19, for its second annual Troop Appreciation Ride.

To honor Soldiers and their efforts, the group will present a plaque to Fort Riley at 1:30 p.m. A free concert, featuring the rock band Crisis, is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Main Post Exchange parking lot.

Harley-Davidson employees will distribute free T-shirts and flags to Soldiers and their families as well.

Single Soldiers to meet

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will meet at 3:30 p.m. June 16.

SFSC activities:

June 11 — Newcomer's Orientation, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

June 16 — PCS-Overseas, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Community Action Council, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Army Family Team Building Level II & III, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

June 18 — Army Family Team Building, Level II, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Men's group studies Bible

A long-term men's Bible study group meets from 5:15 to 6:15 a.m. each Thursday at Kapau Chapel on Custer Hill. All men are invited.

For more information, call Chap. (Capt.) Glenn Palmer at 784-8384 or 239-9565.

Crafts center sets classes

June 13 — Scrapbooking Get-Together, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

June 14 — 3-D Buildings in Glass, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Crochet, Knitting, Cross Stitch, 7 p.m.

June 14-15 — Black & White Photography Orientation, 2 to 4 p.m.

June 16 — Wood Safety, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

June 17 — Mold Pouring Orientation, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Teen Center activities:

June 11 — Lincoln, Neb., zoo and museum trip, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

June 12 — Midnight Softball, 8 p.m. to midnight

June 18 — Rolling Hills Refuge Trip, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Head 'em up

Bible school takes journey to Wild West

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Rodeo games, puppets, arts and crafts and fellowship were all part of Fort Riley's Wild West Vacation Bible School Adventures June 8-11, at Morris Hill Chapel.

This year's theme was created specifically to address issues important to the Fort Riley community, said Don Ericson, director of religious education.

"We wanted something that addressed specifically our community's need, our children's (needs) for things like assurance, security, because so much is so insecure right now," Ericson said.

Children attending classes ranged from preschool age to 10 years old. During the four-day program, children participated in several classes and activities designed to reinforce Bible messages and elaborate on the week's theme.

Each day's theme was taken from Psalm 18, verses one and two. The first theme dealt with God's love for the children. The other themes address security, protection and salvation.

This year offered a limited registration, Ericson said, so the group could better prepare for the event. Some 120 children signed up.

Erin White signed her three daughters up because "they needed something to do" and so they could learn new things.

"I thought it would give them some extra knowledge," she said.

White's daughter, 8-year-old Desiree, said the first day that she was looking forward to the event, especially the rodeo games.

"It looks like fun," she said.

Ten-year-old Terrance Miller said he didn't know his mother signed him up, but added that he was excited about going.

"I'm looking forward to making lots of friends and learning new things," he said.



Samantha Rigby helps Lelani Ramos learn to lasso at Wild West Vacation Bible School Adventures.



Dr. Newheart, played by Mike Mouzakis, removed Blackheart Bart's sinner heart.



Life-sized puppets entertain and share messages with children.

Library offers summer reading

Program open to kindergarten to eighth grade

Special to the Post

Fort Riley's library offers readers an opportunity to explore trails of all kinds through reading this summer.

The 2004 Summer Reading Program, "Discover New Trails at Your Library," is open to readers in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Young readers will be encouraged to read for learning and fun in a variety of different subject areas. Readers will be rewarded with fun prizes and a party for readers who complete the program at the end of the summer.

All participants will earn prizes for completing the program. Area merchants and restaurants have donated prizes. Prizes for top readers include family passes to the Sunset Zoo, fishing trips donated by Big Mike's Fishing Guide Service, passes at Checkered Flag Go-Kart, Papa Murphy's Take and Bake Pizza certificates and personal pan pizzas at Pizza Hut.

Parents can register their children for the Summer Reading Program on from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 5 or during regular library hours for the following week.

The library welcomes children of all abilities and all programs are free of charge. The library is in building 5306 on Hood Drive, behind the Fort Riley Credit Union on Custer Hill.

For more information, call 239-5305.

Army uses new R&R airports

Army News Service

To reduce Soldiers' travel distance and time when visiting loved ones while participating in the U.S. Central Command Rest & Recuperation Leave Program, The Department of Army has adjusted R&R leave aerial ports of debarkation.

Atlanta and Dallas/Fort Worth international airports will be used as primary air ports of debarkation for the R&R Leave Program starting in mid-June.

Servicemembers and their families will continue to use Baltimore Washington International Airport.

For more information on the Central Command's R&R Leave Program, visit the Web site at www.odcsper.army.mil/Directories/wb/RRLeave/index.htm.

Concert series ends with Southern Gospel group

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

The Journey Band Quartet will play at 7 p.m. June 18, at Morris Hill Chapel in the final concert of the chaplains' concert and seminar series. The concert is free and open to the public. Nursery care will be provided.

The family seminar set for 9 a.m. June 19 has been cancelled

and will be rescheduled for later this year.

Journey Band Quartet is a regionally known traditional Southern Gospel band from Iowa.

"The fellas were chosen because of their interest in doing ministry, their quality of music and their adherence to the traditional Southern Gospel sound," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel McClure.

"They tend to sing simple lyrics with a light-hearted

rhythm, but definitely not rock. They will cause foot tapping, clapping and laughing, but not a lot of raucous music."

The concert and seminar series, which began in April, was designed for Soldiers and their families.

"The intent behind this series was to help families deal with all the pressures and stuff they're dealing with," said Don Ericson, director of religious edu-

cation.

However, the number of people attending has been disappointing, Ericson said. An average of 50 to 100 people have attended each concert. About 30 have attended each conference.

"We're struggling to hit the target we want to hit. We're not reaching our families, particularly our families outside of the chapel community, like we would like," he said.

Despite the low attendance, Ericson said feedback has been strong. "The feedback we've gotten has been very encouraging, very supportive."

"We'll probably pick it up again in the fall and do some things that we think will help strengthen and support our families," he said.

Ericson said he hopes more Soldiers and their families will be able to attend.





'Bleeding' Kansas era comes to Fort Riley



Post/Heronemus

William G. Mathia (at podium), a pro-slavery legislator played by John Triplett, counters a protest from free-stater Judge Wakefield (standing at left), played by Ron Harris, during a June 5 re-enactment of a legislative session at the First Territorial Capitol on Fort Riley. The meeting included free-staters S.D. Huston (left), played by Doug Engstrom and John Hutchinson (second from left), played by Brian Stoddard, the speaker of the house (seated center), played by Eric Childs, and Gov. Reeder (seated right), played by Eric Stahl.



Post/Heronemus

Ila Morrill (wearing bonnet) talks about the Mormon migration through Kansas with visitors to the First Territorial Capitol of Kansas on Fort Riley June 5 during the Junction City Chautauqua program. Helping her with the presentation were Brent Morrill (in straw hat), Peter Weirholt (third from left), Jody Weirholt (back to camera) and baby Simone Weirholt.

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2 x 2"
Black Only
CMT/6-8, 6-9 & 6-11



Julian and Tianna Johnson of Sylvan Grove, Kan., and their grandmother, Margaret Gibson of Brewster, Kan., visit the CGMCG's wagon team during Chautauqua events on Fort Riley June 7.

Post/April
Blackmon

MILITARY OUTLET
3 x 3"
Black Only
3X3 MILITARY OUTLET

FAITH FURNITURE
3 x 11"
Black Only
3X11 FAITH FURN. JUNE

Re-enactors use post sites in Chautauqua

Staff report

Re-enactors yelled at one another, shook their fists and even brandished a pistol while debating the future of Kansas June 5-8 at the First Territorial Capitol.

The result: The majority of pro-slavery representatives, many reputed to be from Missouri instead of the Kansas Territory, refused to recognize the free-staters waving certificates of election in their faces and voted to move the Territorial Capitol to Shawnee, closer to their homes.

Outside the Capitol, a family of Mormon re-enactors told visitors about the two-wheeled cart they used to make the move across Kansas to Utah.

Visitors to the opening Chautauqua event in Junction City also got to visit Custer House and a cavalry encampment provided on Cavalry Parade Field by the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard.

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Black Only
Shcky Hill/6-8, 6-9 & 6-11

SMOKY VALLEY SHOOTING SPORTS,
2 x 6"
Black Only
2x6, shooting sports

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE &
LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1x1.5 JUNE TF

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
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1X3, COTTONWOOD / POST
AND DU







Safety risks may increase in summer

DES

More drivers, motorcyclists, skateboarders, bicyclists and skaters use the streets in summer. This can translate into unintentional accidents. Accidents increase significantly during the summer months because more people are outside.

Heat impairs a person's ability by causing him or her to be tired, fatigued and less alert. Here is some helpful information for a safe and fun summer:

When biking, wear a helmet. Accidents happen in driveways, sidewalks and bike paths, not just in the street. Make sure your bike has the proper gear, including reflectors. Always obey traffic laws.

When boating, remember that speeding and reckless driving play a role in many boating accidents. Drinking and boating, just like drinking and driving, don't mix. Life jackets must be worn for safety.

Swimming is without a doubt the most popular activity for the summer. The National Safe Kids Campaign states that "drowning is the second leading injury-related killer of kids ages 1 to 14." Parents and guardians should employ four water safety guidelines:

Active supervision: Never leave a child alone in or near a pool. You should be close enough to rescue in case of emergency.

Environment: Make sure the backyard pool is enclosed and the child cannot enter freely without adult supervision.

Gear: use proper fitting vests when in the pool (especially for small children) on a boat or personal watercraft (regardless of your swimming ability).

Education: Learn to swim. Nearly three-quarters of drowning victims researched did not know how.

The American Red Cross recommends water be 9 feet deep for diving from the side of a pool and 12 feet deep when jumping from a diving board. Know how deep the water is. Drought can lessen the depth of lakes and ponds. Most importantly check for debris before jumping in headfirst.

Dog owners have a responsibility to know where their pet is at all times. Be mindful of the public, not everyone loves man's best friend. It is also important that you not provoke an owner or its pet. This can put you at risk for being bitten.

Slow down on road trips. Don't drive when angry; heat has the ability to frustrate any situation. Before hitting the road on vacation, get your car checked. This should include brakes, exhaust system, electrical system, air conditioning, wipers, hoses, belts, batteries, tires (have a good spare in the trunk) and all fluids. Have the oil changed.

When driving to a destination, always have an up-to-date map. It is also a good idea to have an emergency kit equipped with flashlight, flares, flags and reflectors, first aid items and jumper cables. Buckle up car seats and seat belts.

Protect your family from insects that bite, such as mosquitoes, gnats, chiggers and ticks,

with repellents that have deet, citronella and soybean oil.

Never bring a charcoal grill inside. Burning coals produce carbon monoxide. When cooking with a gas grill, check the burner tubes for blockage from bugs and food. Check hoses for leaks.

Summer also means more yard work more often. Begin yard work early to beat the heat. Proper personal equipment (eyewear, long sleeve shirt, pants, sturdy shoes) is essential when mowing, trimming and gardening. Never check a mower while it is running.

More motorcyclists will take to the road. They have a greater chance of being in a fatal accident and are three times more likely to be injured in an accident than someone in another vehicle. Always wear a helmet.

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KS Basement/6-8, 6-9 & 6-11

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
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Black Only
2X2 COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CH

HOLM AUTOMOTIVE
3 x 5"
Black Only
305, YOUR GETTING WARM

GEICO-APC
3 x 10"
Black Only
#464052 & 464053/Called Up

Classified Runover
2 x 21.25"
Black Only







Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, June 11, 2005

Leisuretime ideas

Manhattan:

Country Stampede — Complimentary tickets will be available at the gate for the Kick-Off party June 24, for valid military ID card holders. Gates open at 4 p.m. The Kick-Off program features Shevy Smith, Rushlow and Mark Wills as well as a karaoke contest.

Special military salute tickets for Sunday, June 27 are also available to valid military and DoD civilian ID card holders for only \$10.50 (\$50 value).

Tickets for all performances are available through ITR in building 6918 (across from the main post exchange).

For more information, call 239-5614 or 239-4415.

Arts in the Park — Summer concert series featuring national, regional and local musical groups/performers; 8 to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays only, through Aug. 14; City Park. For more information, (785) 587-2757 or visit www.ci.manhattan.ks.us on the Internet.

Dover:

Heritage Days — Festival includes kiddies and adult tractor pulls, musical jamboree, parades, draft horse team pull, crafts, antiques, BBQ and fireworks; 7 to 10 p.m. June 18 and 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. June 19; 15 miles southwest of Topeka on Kansas Highway 4. For more information, call (785) 256-6050 or (866) 466-6736 or visit www.historicsagein.com/dover.html on the Internet.

Lawrence:

Wakarusa Music & Camping Festival — The Midwest's largest and most unique event featuring top rate national entertainment, multiple stages, interactive displays, arts and crafts, and a variety of food and beverage vendors; June 18-20; Clinton Lake State Park. For more information, call (785) 865-4499 or visit www.wakarusaFestival.com on the Internet.

Topeka:

Sunflower Music Festival — An annual series of chamber orchestra concerts and chamber music of the highest level, performances at 7:30 p.m. June 18-26, except June 24; White Concert Hall, Washburn University. For more information, call (785) 231-1010 or visit www.washburn.edu on the Internet.

Baldwin City:

Plane, Trains, Automobiles — First Annual Father's Day Weekend Festival; antique and classic car show downtown on June 19, antique tractors at Heritage Tractor, model trains at

The American Legion Hall and full size train rides on the Midland; hunting, fishing and sports show at The Lodge, and serving elkburgers and antique airplanes at the Vinland Airport; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 19-20; Vinland Airport to Midland Railway. For more information, call (785) 594-3200 or visit www.baldwincitychamber.com on the Internet.

Council Grove:

Wah-Shun-Gah Days Festival/Walk/Intertribal Pow Wow — The Kaw Inter-Tribal Pow Wow is the featured program of the Wah-Shun-Gah;

days events to be held on the grounds of the Kaw Mission; 8 a.m. to midnight June 18-20; Pow Wow at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday; other programs include story-telling and contra dancing Friday evening, dulcimer playing Saturday afternoon, and the six-mile Wah-Shun-Gah Walk Sunday morning. Parade, craft show, flea market, carnival, street dances, and entertainment for all. For more information, call (620) 767-5882 or (800) 732-9211 or visit www.councilgrove.com on the Internet.

Antique Tractor Show — Antique show featuring tractors, implements, and engines; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 19; 200 N. Union. For more information, call (620) 767-5413 or (800) 732-9211 or visit www.councilgrove.com on the Internet.

Car Show — Best of show, best original, best modified, and others; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 19; 500 W. Main, Courthouse parking lot. For more information, call (620) 767-5882 or (800) 732-9211 or visit www.councilgrove.com on the Internet.

Belleville:

Crossroads Car Festival — 500 hot rods, antiques, classics, customs, and special interest vehicles; 10 a.m. to midnight June 19; Belleville City Park. For more information, call (785) 527-2310 or (866) 527-2355.

Cottonwood Falls:

Prairie Drifter Sunset Tour — Open air two-hour ride in 1958 grain truck through 20 miles of scenic Flint Hills back roads. Friday and Saturday nights only, through Oct. 31. For more information, call (620) 273-6763.

Music at the Emma — Weekly acoustic jam sessions playing country, gospel, bluegrass, and rock and roll. Musicians and audience welcome; Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; 317 Broadway, Emma Chase Cafe. For more information, call (620) 273-6020.

Powell Gardens



Photo by Billie Jo Lorus

The Island Garden setting creates a serene, natural sense for visitors as they explore Powell Gardens.

Road trip stop soothes travelers' souls

By Billie Jo Lorus

A myriad of meticulously landscaped greens, dotted occasionally with shades of purple, pink, white and yellow span the horizon as far as eyes can view. The light blue sky and bright sun complement the surrounding area. It's quiet and peaceful, interrupted only by the occasional bird melody. It's a full, delightful palette for the senses.

Powell Gardens sits snugly in a natural area about 30 miles east of Kansas City, Mo. Set among lush rolling hills, the botanical paradise encompasses breathtaking gardens, nature trails, lakes, ponds and windswept meadows.

Special events and educational programs held throughout the year create enjoyment for adults as well as children.

"I've been to botanical gardens everywhere, and what is unique about these gardens is the open space," Branham said.

The gardens boast a spacious 915 acres with 3.25-mile and 1-mile nature trails traversing the entirety of the gardens. A free trolley is available to take visitors around the gardens because it is so large.

Visitors begin their adventure at the Visitor Center, then take a stroll through the outdoor terrace gardens surrounding the building and enjoy a seasonal display of plants and trees in the conservatory.

From there, the trolley can take guests to the major theme gardens during peak season or visitors can meander on foot following the brick pathways through the gardens.

A 12-acre lake is the focal point for the gardens. The lake is home to the Island Garden, a two-acre project featuring cascading water gardens, a 600-foot "living

If you go

Powell Gardens is open to the public year-round (except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day). To find the gardens, take U.S. Highway 50 east of Kansas City for 35 miles and follow the signs.

April through October, admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors 60 and older and \$3 for children 5 to 12. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. November through March, admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$2 for children. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on the gardens or specific events, call (816) 697-2600 or visit www.powellgardens.org on the Internet.

Special exhibit

This year's special summer exhibit features Dave Rogers' Big Bugs. The 11 giant wooden bugs are set up throughout the gardens and will be displayed until Aug. 22.

rock wall" and a secluded garden. "It is one of the best highlights of the gardens," said Branham, who designed and helped build it. On the other side of the lake is the Perennial Garden, containing more than 6,000 plants.

Connecting to the Perennial Gardens is the Rock and Waterfall Garden, a natural landscape that intermingles ornamental trees, shrubs and perennials into native woods with trickling brooks and subtle waterfalls. Bulbs and annuals are scattered throughout to provide bright splashes of color.

Beyond this garden is hillside planting of prairie grasses and wildflowers, providing a visual statement in all seasons.

At the top of the hill, the meadow pavilion offers a shaded retreat that overlooks the wildflower meadow and lake. A sign

nearby reads, "For all who seek renewal from the beauty of nature."

The pavilion, the visitor center and the Marjorie Powell Allen Chapel contribute to the contemporary architecture at the gardens. All were designed by Fay Jones, an architect who highlights nature in all of his work. The chapel surroundings include all native grasses and trees in a still, secluded area.

Powell Gardens is planning a new \$8 million addition called Heartland Harvest. It will double the size of the gardens and will "focus more on children," said Alan Branham, director of horticulture. "Heartland Harvest will be a place where kids can learn from seed to plate where their food comes from."

About 120,000 people enjoy the natural surroundings of the gardens each year.

REX'S ROADHOUSE
2x5"
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2x5 tessie holden poker

OPHTHALMIC MANAGEMENT
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Black Only
2x5 PAYLESS OPT.-STANDARD AD

GRANDVIEW AUTOMOTIVE
2x5"
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2X5, GRANDVIEW AUTO

